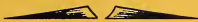




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Rural District of Bridgwater



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1966

BRIDGWATER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

MR. F. W. MOVERLEY

Vice-Chairman:

MR. E. STOREY.

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(Vice-Chairman of Council)

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MR. F. W. MAWDSLEY.

MR. F. SEEKINGS.

MR. B. L. SMITH.

DR. M. D. THOMSON.

DR. W. R. THROWER.

MR. G. O. LOCKYER.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1966.

Medical Officer of Health:

R. H. WATSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer (Somerset C.C.)

CHRISTINE M. ROOKE, M.B. B.S.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

F. A. MAILE, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

D. J. EMM, M.A.P.H.I.

R. G. MORGAN, M.R.S.H.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1966

Tel: BRIDGWATER: 4147/8

Health Department,
22 King Square,
BRIDGWATER.

July, 1967.

To: The Chairman and Members of the
Bridgwater Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District and the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1966. The report is set out in the manner of previous years, so that comparison with former reports can easily be made.

The health of the Rural District has been good during the year. Very few infectious diseases were notified and the vital statistics continue to be satisfactory, and to compare favourably with those for the country as a whole.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council, and other Chief Officers, and the Staff of the Health Department, for the help and co-operation which I have received during the year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

R. H. WATSON.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	86,000
Population (Census 1961)	21,985
Population (Registrar General's estimate 1966)	24,590
No. of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1966.	7,950
Rateable value on 31st December, 1966.	£602,906
Sum represented by ld. rate on 31st December, 1966.	£2423.16.4d.

Extracts from VITAL STATISTICS for the year 1966.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	234	185	419
Illegitimate	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>32</u>
	<u>250</u>	<u>201</u>	<u>451</u>
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population			18.34
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			7.09
Stillbirths			7
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births			15.28
Total live and still births			458
Infant Deaths (deaths of infants under one year of age)			1
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - total			2.21
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate			2.38
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate			31.25
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			2.21
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)			2.21
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			17.46
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)			Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births			Nil
<u>Deaths.</u>			
Total number of deaths			242
Death rate per 1,000 population.			9.84.

Births.

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General's figures show that there were 451 births (250 boys and 201 girls) in the Rural District during 1966, being 24 births more than in 1965. Of these births 32 were illegitimate. This is 7.09% of the total live births, as compared with 5.85% in 1965.

The birth rate of any area is dependent upon the composition of the population in that area. Obviously a population with a high proportion of persons of child bearing age will have more births per 1,000 of the population than an area with an unduly large number of people in the older age groups. To enable the birth rates of different areas to be compared, the Registrar General provides a comparability factor for each Local Authority area, which renders the birth rate of each area comparable with that of a district the population of which is of standard age and sex distribution. The birth rate for the Rural District adjusted in this manner is increased from 18.34 to 19.25 per 1,000 of the population. The birth rate for England and Wales was 17.7.

Birth rates for the Rural District and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Crude Birth Rate	17.64	20.10	19.81	17.64	18.34
Standardised Birth Rate	18.16	21.10	20.80	18.54	19.25
England and Wales	18.0	18.2	18.4	18.0	17.7

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the Rural District during 1966 was 139. Of these 5 were deaths of non-residents and were transferred to the district in which the persons ordinarily resided. There were, on the other hand 108 deaths of Rural District residents registered outside the District, (51 at Taunton hospitals and 57 elsewhere). The total corrected number of deaths assigned to the District was 242 (132 males and 110 females). This was 19 more than the previous year and gave a crude death rate of 9.84 per 1,000 of the population.

The crude death rate cannot be used to compare the mortality with that of other districts, as the populations of all areas are not similarly constituted as regards age and sex distribution. The Registrar General therefore supplies an "Area Comparability Factor" and the crude death rate multiplied by this figure can then be compared with that of the country as a whole, or of any other local area. The corrected death rate so obtained was 9.64 per 1,000 of the population, and this is compared with 11.7 for England and Wales.

Death rates for the District and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Crude Death Rate	10.62	12.80	11.44	9.21	9.84
Standardised Death Rate	10.41	12.67	11.32	9.02	9.64
England and Wales	11.9	12.2	11.3	11.5	11.7

Of 242 deaths, 186 occurred in people over the age of 65 years. 53 occurred in people in the productive age groups 15 to 64 years, and the following table gives the details of deaths in this age group:-

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Total
Tuberculosis respiratory					1	1
Malignant neoplasm stomach				1		1
Malignant neoplasm of lung bronchus				1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm of breast		2			2	4
Malignant neoplasm of uterus			1		1	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms				1	3	4
Leukaemia Aleukaemia	1					1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system				1	3	4
Coronary disease and angina			1	2	12	15
Other heart disease	1			1	2	4
Other circulatory disease				2	1	3
Pneumonia			1	1	1	3
Bronchitis		1			2	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases					1	1
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1				2
All other accidents					1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis				1		1
Congenital Malformations				1		1
Totals:	3	4	3	12	31	53

Cancer Mortality.

The number of deaths from cancer was 44, (males 22 and females 22). They constitute 18.2% of the total deaths during the year.

The following table shows the localisation of the disease in the 44 cases:-

	Number of Deaths			
	Male	Female	Total 1966	1965
Stomach	7	1	8	4
Lung, Bronchus	7	1	8	14
Breast	-	6	6	3
Uterus	-	3	3	2
Other and unspecified organs	8	11	19	28
Total	22	22	44	51

Cancer of the Uterus.

In previous reports reference was made to the need to introduce a scheme to provide for the examination of routine tests (cervical smears) with a view to preventing cancer of the womb. Facilities for examination of the smears are now available and the County Council have provided a service whereby the tests are taken by family doctors.

Cancer of the Lungs.

The ages at which death occurred in the last four years combined is detailed in the following table:-

Year	Under 15	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Over 65	To
1963					1	3	5	
1964				1	-	4	6	1
1965					1	6	7	1
1966					1	1	6	
				1	3	14	24	4

Infantile Mortality.

Only 1 Infant under one year of age died during the year. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 2.21 per 1,000 of all live births while the corresponding rate for England and Wales was 19.0.

Deaths from Heart Disease.

Of the 242 deaths, heart disease caused roughly 1 in every 3 (males 45, females 40). It represented 35.12% of the total deaths from all causes and was equivalent to a death rate of 3.45 per 1,000 of the population.

Other Deaths.

Road accidents accounted for 4 deaths.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		M.	F.	TOTAL
All Causes		132	110	242
1.	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1	-	1
2.	Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm of stomach	7	1	8
11.	Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	7	1	8
12.	Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	6	6
13.	Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	3	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	11	19
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	2	3
16.	Diabetes	-	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	16	15	31
18.	Coronary disease and angina	33	20	53
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	2	2	4
20.	Other heart disease	10	18	28
21.	Other circulatory disease	15	14	29
22.	Influenza	1	-	1
23.	Pneumonia	9	7	16
24.	Bronchitis	7	-	7
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	-	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	-	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	5	11
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	4	-	4
34.	Suicide	-	-	-
35.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
36.	All other accidents	1	1	2

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of the Rural District as at June 1966 was 24,590, which shows an increase of 390 on the previous year. The natural increase in the population, that is, the excess of births over deaths, was 209.

Year	Estimated Population	Increase	Natural Increase
1961(Census)	21,950	1,450	151
1962	22,500	550	158
1963	23,040	540	168
1964	23,770	730	199
1965	24,200	430	204
1966	24,590	390	209

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the cases of notifiable infectious diseases which were notified in the Rural District during 1966. The table is drawn up after making the necessary amendments to the original notifications by either the practitioners or the Medical Officer at the Isolation Hospital, owing to corrections in diagnosis.

Disease	Cases Notified	
	1966	1965
Scarlet Fever	2	26
Whooping Cough	11	7
Measles	223	233
Dysentery	-	4
Pneumonia	4	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-
Tuberculosis	3	-
Erysipelas	-	1
Total	246	273

Measles.

223 cases were notified. Treatment by modern drugs has done much to reduce the severity of the common complications of this highly infectious disease. Nevertheless despite its triviality measles consumes a considerable proportion of doctors' working time in epidemic years, and for this reason alone its prevention would greatly help the family doctor. Investigations are at present being carried out to find an effective and a safe vaccine for the eradication of this disease.

Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis).

(a) Cases: No cases were notified.

(b) Poliomyelitis Vaccination:

The following tables show the number of persons who received a course of vaccination.

	Children born in the years.						
	1966	1965	1964	1963	1959-62	Others under age of 16	Total
Primary	130	252	43	14	52	9	500
Reinforcing	-	1	1	-	322	56	380
Total	130	253	44	14	374	65	880

Tuberculosis

2 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory cases of tuberculosis were notified as compared with 4 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory cases in 1965.

	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-respiratory.</u>
Number of cases on the tuberculosis Register at 1.12.66.	47	7
Number of new cases during the year.	2	1
Number of deaths during the year.	1	

The very low incidence of deaths due to tuberculosis was maintained and reflects the efficacy of modern treatment. All new cases are thoroughly investigated and all known close contacts are invited to attend the Chest Clinic for investigation.

The following table shows the sex and age groups of cases notified during the year:-

Age	Under 5	5/14	15/24	25/44	45/64	65& over	Age unknown	Total
Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Female	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	3

B. C. G. Vaccination.

In order to raise the immunity of school leavers to tuberculosis, vaccination with B.C.G. vaccine was offered to all children between the ages of 12 and 13 years attending schools in the Mid-Somerset Divisional Area. 676 accepted the offer and received a preliminary skin test, the "Heaf Test", to determine whether they had, in fact, already experienced some infection with tuberculosis. 603 of these gave negative results and 599 were vaccinated with the B.C.G. Vaccine.

Food Poisoning.

No cases of food poisoning were notified.

Diphtheria.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year. Children completed a course of immunisation and received booster injections against the disease as follows:-

	Children born in the years					Others	Total
	1966	1965	1964	1963	1959-62		
Primary	152	190	14	6	21	11	394
Booster	-	53	140	24	345	160	722
Total	152	243	154	30	366	171	1116

Tetanus Immunisation.

Tetanus immunisation is now combined with diphtheria immunisation almost as a routine, and practically all infants receiving primary immunisation and all school children receiving booster injections are offered a combined vaccine.

The number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the year ended 31st December, 1966 was as follows:-

	Children born in the years					Others	Total
	1966	1965	1964	1963	1959-62		
Primary	152	190	14	6	27	88	477
Booster	-	53	140	25	342	156	716
Total	152	243	154	31	369	244	1193

Vaccination against Smallpox.

The number of recorded vaccinations was as follows:-

	0-3 mnths	4-6 mnths	7-9 mnths	10-12 mnths	1 year	2-4 years	5-15 years	Totals
Primary	20	33	1	5	128	52	27	266
Re-vaccination	-	-	-	-	-	5	47	52
Total	20	33	1	5	128	57	74	318

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological specimens are sent to the Laboratory at Musgrove Park Hospital, which forms part of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Results of investigations are available with the minimum of delay and there is good liaison between the laboratory personnel and the field workers in the Public Health Department.

Examinations carried out during the year included:-

Water Samples	34
Ice Cream Samples	32

Hospital.

Hospitals in the area are administered by the South Western Regional Hospital Board through the Bridgwater Area Management Committee.

The hospitals are:-

Bridgwater General Hospital	72 beds
Mary Stanley Nursing Home	31 beds
Northgate Hospital	60 beds

Cases of infectious diseases needing hospital treatment, or isolation, are admitted to Taunton Isolation Hospital.

The South Western Regional Hospital Board have informed the Council of their change of plan for improving facilities at Bridgwater Hospital. It is now proposed to build an entirely new Out-patients Department on the Broadway site and following this to improve the existing Casualty Department. Construction of the new Out-patients has commenced.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

No Local Authority Ante-Natal Clinics are held in the area, supervision being conducted by General Practitioners and Midwives. A number of expectant mothers attend at the Clinic, at the Health Centre, Mount Street, Bridgwater, when blood samples are taken for determination of blood groups, Rhesus Factor etc. During 1966 966 persons attended. The corresponding figure for the previous year was 989.

Infant Welfare.

Infant Welfare Clinics, for which the County Council are responsible, are held at Ashcott, Cannington, Edington, Goathurst, East Huntspill, West Huntspill, Moorland, Nether Stowey, North Petherton, Pawlett, Puriton, Spaxton, Westonzoyleland and Woolavington.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47.

A number of cases were assisted through informal action, and in no case was it necessary for the Council to take statutory action to secure the admission of an old person to suitable accommodation.

Admission to Hospital.

To assist the Geriatric Department at Trinity Hospital, Taunton, to determine the priority for admission of old people to hospital beds, and to provide the Geriatrician with information on the home background of hospital patients which would be useful in arranging the discharge of old people from hospital, arrangements have now been made for the Health Department to be informed of all applications for admission to hospital of old people, and a comprehensive report is sent without delay to the Geriatrician.

Home Help Service.

This service is provided by the County Council, with local administration by the Home Help Organiser, with an office at the Health Centre, Mount Street, Bridgwater.

The Home Helps have provided a very valuable service and much assistance was given to needy cases. During the year 199 cases received assistance.

These included the following types:-

Post and Pre-natal	8
Maternity	14
Old age and infirmity	116
Chronic sick	25
Tuberculosis	3
Post operation	5
Emergency illness	10
Other cases	18

The number of Home Helps at 31st December, 1966, was as follows:-

Full time	3
Part time	16

Welfare of Old People.

The Rural District now assist the W.V.S. in providing Meals on Wheels for old people, and this worthwhile service is greatly appreciated by the recipients. The scheme is at present operating in certain parts of the District, but it is hoped to extend the service wherever there is need.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no registered Common Lodging Houses in the District

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

At the time of preparing this report the Council's scheme for providing a sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Sutton Mallett has been completed. The schemes proposed for North Petherton and Nether Stowey have been the subject of Ministry enquiries and the need for both to proceed has been established.

Water Supplies.

Sampling of Water Supplies was continued and results generally were highly satisfactory. In those cases where results were not up to standard no special measures other than increasing chlorination were necessary. The old Goathurst supply has now been closed.

Results of bacteriological tests generally can be summarised as follows:-

Supply	Number of examinations	Report	
		Satisfactory	Not satisfactory
Fiddington	8	8	0
Goathurst	1	0	1
Willoughby	13	12	1
Over Stowey	12	12	0

Chemical analysis of Fiddington, Willoughby, and Over Stowey supplies was continued as a matter of routine. Reports were as follows:-

Fiddington Water Supply

	<u>Parts per million.</u>
Physical Characters	Clear and bright. Hazen Units 5.
Sediment	None
Reaction	Slightly Alkaline
pH	7.7
Total Solids	110.0
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO_3)	60.0
Carbonate Hardness " "	
Non-Carbonate " " "	
Total Hardness " "	65.0
Chloride (as Cl)	18.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	0.002
Albuminoid " "	0.024
Nitrate " "	0.8
Nitrite " "	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C .	0.55
Free Carbon Dioxide	2.0
Iron, Copper, Lead & Zinc	Nil

This is a soft water, of satisfactory chemical purity.

Willoughby Water Supply.

	<u>Parts per million.</u>
Physical Characters	Clear and bright. Hazen Units 5.
Sediment	None
Reaction	Slightly Alkaline
pH	7.6
Total Solids	225.0
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO_3)	110.0
Carbonate Hardness " "	110.0
Non-Carbonate " " "	40.0
Total Hardness " "	150.0
Chloride (as Cl)	23.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	0.004
Albuminoid " "	0.020
Nitrate " "	2.0
Nitrite " "	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C .	0.33
Free Carbon Dioxide	2.5
Iron, Copper, Lead & Zinc	Nil

This is a moderately hard water of satisfactory chemical purity.

Over Stowey Water Supply

	Parts per million
Physical Characters	Clear and bright.
Sediment	Hazen Units 5. None
Reaction	Slightly Alkaline
pH	7.7
Total Solids	85.0
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	45.0
Carbonate Hardness " "	" "
Non-Carbonate " " "	" " "
Total Hardness " "	45.0
Chloride (as Cl)	18.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	0.002
Albuminoid " " "	0.022
Nitrate " " "	0.4
Nitrite " " "	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 27° C.	0.50
Free Carbon Dioxide	1.0
Iron, Copper, Lead & Zinc	Nil

This is a soft water of satisfactory chemical purity.

Housing.

During 1966 the Local Authority erected 112 houses compared with 31 in 1965. Private Enterprise built 192 houses in 1966, compared with 180 in 1965. At the end of the year there were approximately 480 applications for Council houses, compared with 338 at the end of the previous year.

At the time of writing this report redevelopment of the Woolavington Housing Estate is practically complete, and the new estate has been opened officially by the Right Honourable Anthony Greenwood M.P. Minister of Housing and Local Government.

Wardens Schemes for old people are now operating most successfully in the following villages - West Huntspill 15 (units) North Petherton 9, Woolavington 24, Nether Stowey 11, Puriton 8, Ashcott 8, and Cannington 26.

The number of post-war houses built in the Rural District from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1966 was as follows:-

(a)	Erected by the Local Authority	1175
(b)	Erected by Private Enterprise	2246

Improvement Grants.

Owners of many properties have been informed of the benefits of these grants and have been urged to bring their properties up to modern standard. The following table summarises the action taken.

Discretionary Grants.

Received		Approved	
Applications	No. of Dwellings.	Applications	No. of Dwellings
17	17	17	17

Standard Grants.

Received	Approved
11	11

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The records given in the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report show the number of insanitary conditions dealt with.

FOR 1966

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my twenty-seventh Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1966.

STAFF.

The staff of the Department consists of Chief Public Health Inspector, two Additional Public Health Inspectors and female clerk-typist. Mr. R.G. Morgan, one of the Additional Public Health Inspectors resigned on 30th June on appointment to a post with Hatfield Rural District Council, and the vacancy was filled by the appointment of Mr. D.K. Lane who was previously a Public Health Inspector with Birmingham County Borough Council.

Mr. Lane commenced duty on 3rd October.

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES.

The number of complaints investigated during the year was 109, a decrease of 2 on the previous year. In most cases nuisances were abated as a result of informal action and it was only found necessary to serve 6 Statutory Notices. On inspection a number of complaints were found to be not justified and no further action was taken in regard to them.

Of the nuisances found, 91 were abated during the year. The number of visits made in connection with nuisances was 370.

A number of strong complaints have been received from residents in Westonzoyland of particularly unpleasant smells from a calf-rearing unit which is operated on intensive lines on a holding of approximately one quarter of an acre in the centre of the built-up area of the village. The unit comprises ten calf-rearing sheds each containing twenty-eight wooden pens so that there is accommodation for a total of 280 calves. Calves are admitted when a few days old and are normally removed for slaughter when thirteen weeks old.

The premises were inspected on a number of occasions and several interviews took place with the owner and his advisors, but as the unit has continued to be operated without improvement, an Abatement Notice has been served requiring the execution of extensive works.

The joint sewerage scheme for the villages of Woolavington, East Huntspill and Cossington was completed during the year and this has made possible the elimination of serious drainage nuisances which had existed in each of these villages for some years. An extension of the original scheme by providing sewers to serve the Basonbridge area of East Huntspill was nearing completion at the end of the year. Work is also in progress on a sewerage system for the hamlet of Sutton Mallet in the parish of Stawell, where drainage arrangements are at present very unsatisfactory.

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES (continued)

The roadside toilet block at the Beggars Brook lay-by near the village of North Petherton on the main A.38 trunk road has been extensively used throughout the year, and particularly so during week-ends in the summer months. It is estimated that the conveniences were used by at least 180,000 persons during the year. Electric lighting was installed during the year, and a further improvement was the provision of hand washing and drying units which incorporate liquid soap dispensers.

It was hoped to provide a second toilet block at a lay-by on the opposite side of the road but preliminary arrangements had not been completed at the end of the year.

WATER SUPPLY.

Samples of water for bacteriological examination are taken at monthly intervals from the three sources of supply serving most of the District and are forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory, Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton for examination.

A total of 70 visits was made in connection with water supply during the year.

HOUSING.

The total number of visits under the Housing Acts was 550, the number of separate houses inspected being 164.

As in previous years a considerable number of informal notices were sent to owners, and these were followed up where necessary with re-inspections and negotiations with property owners and their agents or builders to consider details of the required repairs.

In former years the shortage of building labour was considered to be a limiting factor in getting repair-work carried out. This was not so apparent during 1966, but during the course of the year the tightening of credit facilities had some effect and resulted in increasing reluctance on the part of owners of property to spend money on house repairs.

For some years the Council have been concerned at the untidy and dilapidated appearance of a number of houses fronting the main road through the village of North Petherton. Several of these houses have been subject to action under the Housing Acts as unfit for habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable cost, but as demolition was considered to be impracticable owing to the effect it would have on adjoining property, Closing Orders had to be made and the occupiers rehoused. These vacant houses have deteriorated further and are now most unsightly.

Plans have now been approved for a road improvement in the village which will necessitate the acquisition and demolition of a number of houses, including several of the houses in question. It is hoped to start the work in the Autumn of 1967 and when completed the appearance of this area should be very much improved.

There were slightly fewer applications for Improvement Grants, but as in previous years schedules of disrepair were supplied where appropriate to ensure that the property was brought up to a reasonable standard as a condition of grant. In a number of cases the granting of a loan towards the applicants share of the cost made possible the carrying out of work which otherwise would have been beyond the applicants means.

HOUSING (continued)

During the year 34 houses were repaired and improved as a result of the service of informal notices.

13 houses were represented as unfit for human habitation and incapable of being rendered fit at reasonable cost and 8 Demolition Orders and 8 Closing Orders were made by the Council. In 1 case, the Council agreed to accept an undertaking to carry out works within a stipulated time. 6 houses subject to Demolition Orders were demolished during the year.

7 families were transferred during the year from condemned houses into Council houses.

26 visits were made during the year to 11 properties in regard to the reconditioning and alteration of existing houses and the installation of new sanitary fittings.

16 visits were made to houses in respect to which grants had been made under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Acts.

42 visits were made in connection with applications for Improvement Grants.

OVERCROWDING.

2 new cases of overcrowding were discovered during the year.

5 visits were made in connection with overcrowding.

RIRES ACTS, 1927 and 1948.

The following particulars indicate the action taken under
1 of the Factories Act, 1957:-

	Number on Register	Insp.	Number of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	-	-	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	67	89	-	-
Factories on premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers (cases))	3	3	-	-
TOTAL	70	92	-	-

The 92 visits were made in respect to 70 factories.

	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
of cleanliness					
crowding (S.2)					
unpleasant temperature (S.3)					
adequate ventilation (S.4)					
adequate drainage to sewer (S.6)					
adequate sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
insufficient ventilation or defective arrangements for separate facilities for sexes	3	3			
offences against the Act not including offences relating to Outwork)					
TOTAL	3	3			

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES.

All the 89 registered premises received a general inspection during the year; three registrations were cancelled by reason of changed circumstances and three new premises were registered.

The number of employees was 227 comprising 82 males and 145 females.

New offices have been provided by two firms, in one case to replace existing office which had deficient lighting and ventilation. Improved heating has been provided in one shop.

It has been found that there is a seasonal fluctuation in the necessity for registration of some cafes and shops as persons are employed during the summer holiday periods but not during the winter months.

No accidents have been reported and no prosecutions have been necessary.

BAKEHOUSES.

One bakehouse was taken out of use during the year.

12 visits were made to the 8 bakehouses remaining in the District and where defects or unsatisfactory conditions were found, informal notices were served.

GENERAL SANITATION.

The following sanitary fittings were renewed or provided generally as a result of informal action:-

W.C's	12
Baths	2
Sinks	3
Lavatory basins	4

A number of other minor improvements were also carried out.

FOOD HYGIENE.

Considerable attention has again been given to the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, 327 inspections having been made of the 311 premises and mobile shops in the District to which the Regulations apply. In all but a few premises the standard of hygiene maintained is very good, but in these few cases frequent and regular visits are necessary in order to impress on persons responsible and their employees the need for constant care and vigilance in the hygienic preparation and handling of food.

Where contraventions of the Regulations were found, informal action was taken which resulted in 50 deficiencies being remedied, most of which were of a minor nature. In addition, the following improvements in facilities and equipment were installed:-

Refrigerators	2
Floors relaid	3
Premises modernised or improved	2

FOOD HYGIENE (continued)

The number and types of food premises in the District are as follows:-

	Fitted to comply with <u>Regulation 16.</u>	Regulation 19 applies.	Fitted to comply with <u>Regulation 19.</u>
102 Food Shops	102	97	97
70 Licenced Houses & clubs	70	70	70
60 Food preparing premises	59	60	60
39 Schools	11	39	39
17 Butchers	16	17	17
15 Cafes	15	15	15
8 Bakehouses	8	8	8
2 Poultry & Rabbit Packers	2	2	2
1 Ice Cream Factory	-	1	1
1 Fish & Chip Shop	1	1	1

N.B. Regulation 16 requires the provision of a wash-hand basin and Regulation 19 requires the provision of sink and other facilities for washing food and equipment.

LICENCED PREMISES.

73 inspections of licensed premises were carried out, and a number of improvements were brought about by informal action, including the complete renewal on modern lines of the sanitary accommodation at two premises, and in addition the internal lay-out of three houses was considerably improved.

MEAT AND FOODS.

There are five licensed slaughterhouses in the District, four of which are used exclusively for the wholesale trade, and the other is used for both wholesale and retail purposes. The slaughterhouse at Puriton resumed operations in January.

Most of the meat produced at the wholesale slaughterhouses is sent to the London wholesale markets, but a considerable quantity is also sent to Bristol and Bath, whilst a comparatively small amount goes to local retail butchers.

The number of animals slaughtered decreased by 21% of the previous years total.

1,146 visits were made in connection with the inspection of meat and 20,601 carcasses were inspected, a decrease of 5,451 on the previous year, and giving an average of 18 animals per visit. The numbers of the different kinds of animals inspected were as follows:-

Beasts	1,775
Cows	78
Calves	7,075
Sheep	7,019
Pigs	4,654

MEAT AND FOODS (continued)

Approximately $8\frac{1}{2}$ tons of meat were condemned during the year, details of which are as follows:-

Beasts.

Carcases and organs	2
Heads and tongues	8
Livers	241
Lungs	4
Hearts	11
Beef	724 lbs.

Cows.

Carcases and organs	7
Livers	20
Lungs	3
Kidneys	1
Hearts	7
Beef	1,706 lbs.

Calves.

Carcases and organs	70
Livers	7
Kidneys	12
Plucks	2
Lungs	13
Hearts	3
Veal	90 lbs.

Sheep.

Carcases and organs	46
Livers	389
Lungs	18
Plucks	70
Kidneys	2
Mutton	89 lbs.

Pigs.

Carcases and organs	35
Heads and tongues	55
Livers	136
Kidneys	4
Lungs	124
Plucks	47
Hearts	50
Diaphragms	21
Pork	42 lbs.

Other Foods.

68 tins - Various foods.
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ cwt - Ice Cream Powder.
20 lbs. - Sausages.

T AND FOODS (continued)

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or part
ing the year:-

	Cattle excl. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
er inspected	1,775	78	7,075	7,019	4,654	-
diseases except tuberculosis and Cysticercosis le carcasses condemned	2	7	70	46	35	-
ses of which some part gan was condemned	265	42	48	482	372	-
the number inspected ted with disease other Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis	15.04	62.82	1.67	7.052	8.74	-
tuberculosis only - carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
ses of which some part gan was condemned	1	-	-	-	39	-
the number inspected ted with tuberculosis	.06	-	-	-	.84	-
Cysticercosis. ses of which some part gan was condemned	8	1	-	-	-	-
es submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	8	1	-	-	-	-
sterilised and total condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Condemned meat is normally disposed of to manufacturers of animal
g stuffs and fertilisers where it is processed and sterilised by steam
pressure.

PRESERVED FOODS.

There are 14 premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled and preserved foods.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The number of retail purveyors of milk on the register is 9 and 12 visits were made for the inspection of dairies during the year. There are also 3 dairies manufacturing milk products on a large scale.

ICE CREAM.

The number of premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream at the end of the year was 106, and three premises were also registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

20 samples were taken during the year, 15 of which were placed in Provisional Grade 1, 4 in Provisional Grade 2 and 1 in Provisional Grade 3.

A total of 105 visits were made in connection with the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream.

POULTRY PACKING STATION.

The poultry packing station at Nether Stowey is being operated satisfactorily and 12 visits were made to it during the year. This is the only such establishment in the District. The number of birds processed was 958,000; most of these were broilers, but a very few capons were also dealt with.

Approximately 0.25% of birds (approximately 2,400) were rejected as unfit for human consumption, the weight of poultry condemned being about $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons.

Proposals are under consideration for increasing the capacity of the factory, and various improvements are also to be carried out.

WASTE FOOD BOILING PLANTS.

There are now no licensed waste food boiling plants in the District.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

213 visits were made during the year in connection with moveable dwellings.

There are 21 caravan and camping sites in the District, all of which are small. In addition, there are 43 caravans on individual sites.

Complaints were again received in regard to the objectionable habits of gypsies occupying camping sites whilst working for produce merchants in the harvesting of peas and root crops.

The occupiers of the land on which the camps are situated do not exercise sufficient control, with the result that the sanitary accommodation is fouled and fittings removed or damaged. In addition the gypsies are undoubtedly responsible for the fouling of adjoining land, and the consequent risk to public health.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS (continued)

The Council, in conjunction with Somerset County Council and Williton Rural District Council, have given careful consideration to the provision of a Local Authority camping site for gypsies and other itinerants, and a number of sites have been considered and surveyed, but a suitable site has not yet been found.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS AND PET SHOPS.

Eight licenses have been issued to the proprietors of Animal Boarding Establishments and there are two licensed Pet Shops, in one case the licence being restricted to the sale of cage birds, goldfish and tropical fish.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

One disinfection was carried out during the year, and a total of 43 visits were made in connection with infectious diseases.

SUMMARY OF VISITS.

Water Supply	70
Drainage	32
New Work	26
Nuisances	370
Refuse Disposal	16
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises	98
Factories	92
Schools	40
Housing (Slum Clearance)	149
Housing Repairs	295
Improvement Grants	42
Housing (Financial Provisions) Act	16
Overcrowding	5
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	43
Moveable Dwellings	213
Infectious Diseases	43
Rodent Infestation	17
Other Pest Control	22
Meat & Food Inspection	1,159
Food Shops	140
Mobile Shops	13
Bakehouses	12
School Kitchens	40
Other Food Preparing Premises	81
Licensed Premises & Clubs	73
Dairies	12
Ice Cream	111
Miscellaneous Food Visits	5
Ice Cream Sample Visits	32
Poultry Packers	12
Knacker Yard	3
Animal Boarding Establishments	11
Miscellaneous	59
Hairdressers	10
Public Sanitary Accommodation	101
Fire Escapes	9
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3,472	
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I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

F. A. MAILE

Chief Public Health Inspector



